

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2000-125209

(43)Date of publication of application : 28.04.2000

(51)Int.Cl.

H04N 5/335

H04N 1/19

H04N 9/09

(21)Application number : 10-289052

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(22)Date of filing : 12.10.1998

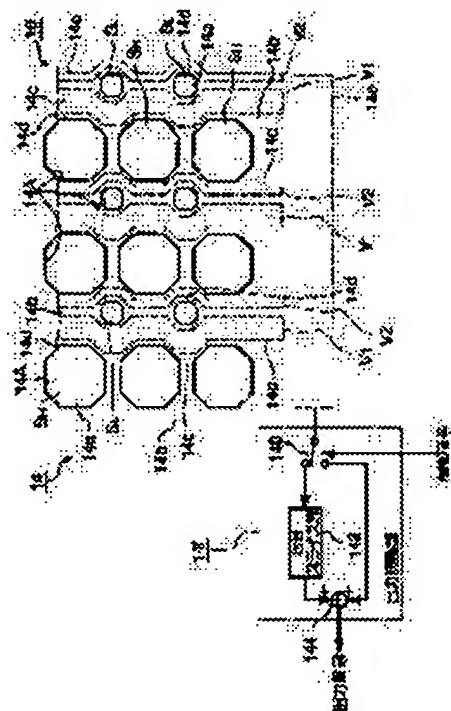
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(54) SOLID-STATE IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE AND SIGNAL READ-OUT METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a solid-state image pickup device that its image pickup section is highly integrated, its dynamic range of a signal from the image pickup section is widened more than that of a conventional solid-state image pickup device and production of a false signal or occurrence of uneven saturation is suppressed and to provide the signal read-out method.

SOLUTION: Each light receiving element 14a with two kinds of sensitivities in honey-comb arrangement applies photoelectric conversion to a transmission light resulting from an incident light passing through a color separation filter in the solid-state image pickup device 10, two columns of vertical transfer paths 14c (V1, V2) are placed between the adjacent light receiving elements 14a, signal charges from the light receiving elements 14a to the vertical transfer paths 14c are read through a signal read gate 14d between each light receiving element 14a and the vertical transfer path 14c, and an output from the vertical transfer path 14c is transferred in a horizontal direction via a horizontal transfer path 14e. The light receiving element 14a employs a light receiving element SH with 1st prescribed sensitivity and a light receiving element SL with 2nd prescribed sensitivity lower than the 1st prescribed sensitivity and an output adjustment section 14f adjusts a saturation level caused especially in the light receiving element SH to



suppress uneven saturation or the like.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination] 07.09.2004

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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